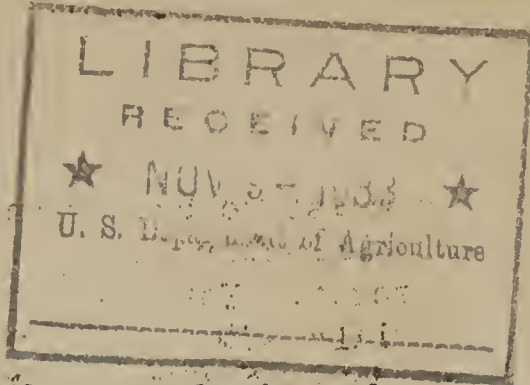


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast over a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Tuesday, August 1, 1933.

Hello Farm and Home Hour Folks. Well, here we are at the turn of the summer season for today is the first of August and time to be doing something about our fall gardens so that we may have plenty of fresh vegetables to eat this fall and winter. A lot of you folks in the Cotton Belt have been out in your cotton fields with middlebusters and turning plows, plowing up a part of your cotton acreage in compliance with your contract to reduce acreage. I'm wondering what you are going to do with those acres the balance of the season. Under your contract you can't plant them to crops to sell on the market and it occurs to me that a whole lot of this marginal land could be planted to fall vegetables for home use also to crops that will make feed for your livestock.

You cotton farmers and plantation owners know what it is to have a large number of families living on your places and practically looking to you to feed them, and if you have plenty of sweetpotatoes, turnips, kale, collards and home cured meats to fall back upon that the job of keeping everybody well fed and contented is a mighty sight easier than if you have to go to the store for everything. Even you northern folks can grow some of the crops that I am going to mention. This is just the right time for you to plant your turnips in the north and the most of you can still make crops of snap beans in your gardens. Speaking of snap beans, on several occasions I've saved the leftover snap beans from my early crop, let the beans ripen on the plants then shelled them and immediately planted them for a late fall crop and they did fine.

I suppose that most of you southern cotton farmers have a good sized patch of sweet potatoes somewhere on your place, perhaps most of your hands have patches of sweets about their houses. It's pretty late for planting sweet potatoes but I'm inclined to believe that if you think you may need more sweets than you have coming on, I would fit up a piece of that land where you plowed up the cotton and if you get a good planting season during the next week or ten days plant a lot of sweetpotato vine cuttings. You may not get a heavy crop but you know the late potatoes grown from vine cuttings are usually free from diseases and make good storage potatoes. Later in the season I'm going to give you a few pointers on the best way to store your sweets.

In case any of you southern farmers grew a crop of early white potatoes, and have a supply of small but sound potatoes on hand it might pay you to spread them under the shade of a tree for a few days and let them green up and ripen a trifle then plant them for a fall crop. The yield will probably not be large but what you do get will help you to feed your family and the families that you have on the place. Right now is a good time for you Cotton Belt farmers to plant a patch of Kentucky wonder pole beans and it goes without saying that you can grow fall crops of snap beans. Select the best of your plowed up cotton land for these crops and I have found that it pays to drag the land a plenty before you plant. The dragging packs the soil underneath and makes it

hold moisture better and remember when you are planting beans or any seeds of that character in fairly dry soil be sure that you pack the soil somewhat over the seeds. You can do this with the back of the hoe or by stepping lightly on the hills after you cover the seeds. The packing of the soil restores the moisture contact with the soil that is underneath.

Blackeye peas is another crop that you southern farmers can still plant and make a good crop this season, providing, of course, that you can get the seed. Of course, it goes without saying that every one of you will plant plenty of turnips, kale and collards. They tell me there's a big demand for turnip seed this year, and in that connection I want to say that a lot of turnip seed is wasted by sowing it too thick. In fact, I think it is worse than wasted for you never produce good turnips where the plants are crowded too closely together. Mix your turnip seed with a large amount of sand or sifted soil, then you can sow it thin enough to give you the proper stand. This land where you have plowed under cotton will be ideal for turnips after it is well harrowed and has had a rain or two upon it. Better plant your kale on beds or slight ridges, and about the best way to start it is to plant ever so small a pinch of seed in each place where you want the kale plants to stand, then thin out the extra plants after they get started.

I believe many of you southern folks might grow a fall crop of tomatoes by planting a pinch of tomato seed in each hill then thinning the plants to one. Tomato plants are hard to transplant at this season of the year and by starting them right where they are to grow they come along rapidly. Now, these are just a few pointers today and I would like to receive a bushel hamper full of letters from you folks giving me your suggestions about this matter of fall gardens and crops to grow on the land where you plowed up the cotton, and don't forget to talk this matter of growing crops for home use over with your County Agricultural Agent. Next week I hope to be with you bringing more suggestions about your gardens. Until then, good-bye.